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Bangalore Mirror

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Rahul's night out
BJP tweets Rahul Gandhi's video at Nepal club, Congress says he is in Himalayan nation for friend's wedding

BangaloreMirror
Wednesday, May 4, 2022
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India, Denmark take the greener route

Significant progress made in renewable energy, health, ports, circular economy, water management: Modi

#COPENHAGEN

India and Denmark on Tuesday agreed to further strengthen the Green Strategic Partnership with a focus on green hydrogen, renewable energy and wastewater management. "During our discussions, we reviewed the joint work plan for the green strategic partnership. I am happy that significant progress has been made in various fields, especially in the areas of renewable energy, health, ports, shipping, circular economy and water management," Prime Minister Narendra Modi told reporters here after talks with his Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen. A number of agreements covering sectors such as green shipping, animal husbandry and dairying, water management, energy, cultural exchange were inked after the bilateral talks.

In a joint statement issued here, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the intention of both countries to deepen and expand the existing cooperation in the field of safe and secure water to meet present and future demand through a holistic and sustainable approach.

"They looked forward to the early signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Danish Environment Ministry as a broad-based framework to enhance the existing cooperation and to launch new initiatives, including a Smart Laboratory on Clean River Water in Varanasi and a Centre of Excellence on Smart Water Resources Management," it said. **-PTI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen, at her residence in Copenhagen

Tension in Jodhpur on Eid; curfew imposed

#JODHPUR/JAIPUR

Communal tensions gripped Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's hometown Jodhpur hours before Eid on Tuesday, prompting the authorities to suspend mobile internet services and impose a curfew in 10 police stations areas of the city.

The chief minister has appealed to people to maintain peace and harmony.

The Jodhpur deputy commissioner of police issued orders imposing a curfew till May 4 midnight besides suspending mobile internet services to check the spread of rumours.

Tensions broke out past midnight over putting up of Islamic flags on the Jalori gate circle, which led to stone pelting in which five policemen were injured.

The situation was brought under control in the early hours on Tuesday with heavy deployment of police but tensions escalated again in the morning after prayers at an Eidgah. Shops, vehicles and houses were pelted with stones near the Jalori gate area.

Members of the minority community were installing Eid flags and they put up a flag on a roundabout alongside the statue of freedom fighter Balmukund Bissa.

Police resort to baton charge after clashes broke out in Jalori Gate area, in Jodhpur

This led to a confrontation as members of the other community alleged that a saffron flag, which they had put up there ahead of Parshuram Jayanti, had gone missing. The issue snowballed into stone-pelting and clashes, officials said. Police rushed to the spot to control the situation during which five policemen were injured, the police control room said.

Police had to lob tear gas shells to disperse the mob.

Mobile internet services were suspended in the area to check the spread of rumours, the officials said.

Gehlot in a tweet urged people to maintain peace and called the incident unfortunate. **-PTI**

Golden days
Shoppers flock jewellery shops in Bengaluru on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya on Tuesday

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

France backs out of submarine project

#NEW DELHI

French company Naval Group on Tuesday said it is unable to participate in Centre's P-75I project, under which six conventional submarines are to be domestically built for the Indian Navy, due to conditions mentioned in the request for proposal (RFP) related to air independent propulsion (AIP) system.

Naval Group's announcement comes a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Paris where he is scheduled meet recently re-elected French President Emmanuel Macron. AIP system allows a conventional submarine to stay submerged in water at higher speeds for a longer period of time.

In June last year, the Defence Ministry had cleared the P-75I project and subsequently, RFPs were issued to two shortlisted Indian companies -- private company Larsen and Toubro and state-run Mazagaon Docks Limited.

The two Indian companies (called strategic partners) have to tie up with one of the five shortlisted foreign companies -- ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (Germany), Navantia (Spain) and Naval Group (France), Daewoo (South Korea) and Rosoboronexport (Russia) -- and then respond to the RFP, according to the Defence Ministry. **PTI**

Putin to undergo cancer treatment, hand over power?

#MOSCOW

WORLD

Russian President Vladimir Putin might undergo cancer surgery while temporarily handing over power to the secretary of the country's Security Council Nikolai Patrushev, unverified media reports claimed.

Putin has reportedly been told by doctors that he must undergo an operation, the New York Post reported citing a Telegram channel purportedly run by a former Russian Foreign Intelligence Service lieutenant general.

The anticipated surgery and recovery are expected to incapacitate Putin for "a short time," the report said.

Referring to Putin's supposedly "sickly appearance and uncharacteristically fidgety behaviour in public" in recent times, the report said that the Russian President has been rumoured to suffer from cancer and a host of other maladies, including Parkinson's disease.

However, a US official said that the media reports could not be verified with Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby saying on Monday that "I have seen nothing that could help us corroborate that," New York Post reported.

Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting with members of the Security Council via a video conference at the Kremlin

A few days ago, Putin allegedly had a two-hour "heart-to-heart" conversation with Nikolai Patrushev, the report said citing a Telegram post.

"We know that Putin signalled to Patrushev that he considers him to be practically his only trusted ally and friend in the government," the post claimed. "Additionally, the president promised that if his health takes a turn for the worse, actual control of the country will temporarily pass into Patrushev's hands."

"Patrushev is an outright villain. He is no better than Vladimir Putin. Moreover, he is a more cunning, and I would say, more insidious person than Vladimir Putin. If he comes to power, Russians' problems will only multiply," the owner of the Telegram channel which claimed about Putin's cancer surgery said. **-ANI**

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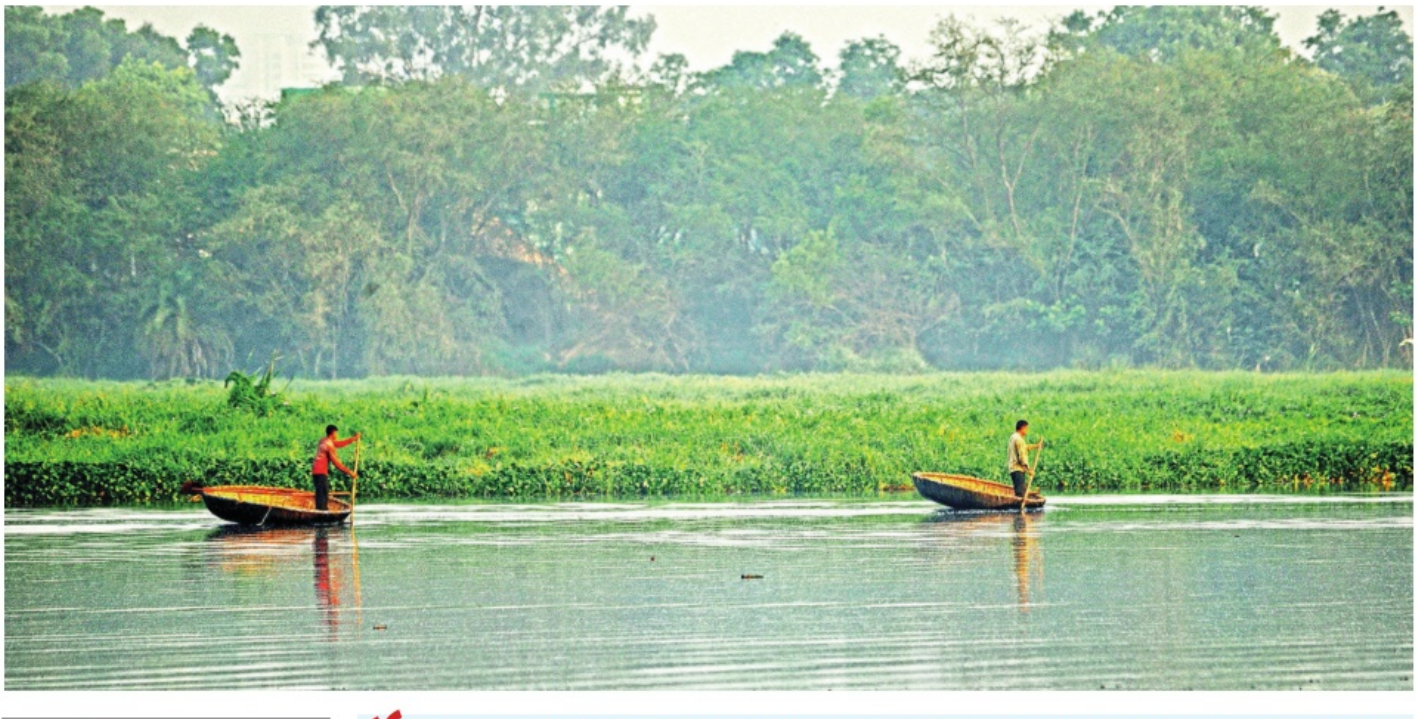
'Between 2000 and 2019, Bengaluru lost 450 acres of wetland from 42 waterbodies — 243 from Bellandur, 32 from Varthur lakes'

LAND OF THE DYING LAKES

Eutrophication and encroachment, major factors, says study



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"Variable rate of eutrophication can be due to a synergy of anthropogenic influences such as failure to incept stringent policies, lack of decentralised STPs..." — Dr Rajesh Gopinath, lead author of study

Bengaluru has lost as much as 450 acres of wetland from 42 prominent lake areas in the last 20 years, a study has revealed.

According to the recent study by a city-based researcher, out of the 42 lakes, 41 had been encroached with an average reduction of 10.33% in the physical area. Bellandur and Varthur lakes have witnessed the highest decline in area due to encroachment.

The study was conducted with the help of Google satellite images of the 42 prominent lakes between 2000 and 2019 distributed throughout Bengaluru to analyse the extent of the impact of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

Hail a pet cab

Real-life experience inspires man to start a taxi service for pets

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Amidst increasing instances of animal cruelty, a resident of Sarjapura has come up with an initiative to provide taxi services for easy pick up and drop of animals, if pet parents have to take them across states or in times of emergency.

Prateek Mishra, a cyber security manager by profession, has come forward with the pet taxi venture.

Mishra himself or a designated driver shall pick up and drop animals from one place to another. All one has to do is book him through social media; a vehicle will soon arrive at the desired location and pick up the pet along with the pet parent.

Mishra had a harrowing experience in the year 2020, wherein he had to travel to Chennai. "I didn't have a car in early 2020. I had to travel from Mahadevapura to BTM; I had to leave for Chennai the following day. I was booking cabs; most taxis cancelled as I had to take my pet dog along. Even auto-rickshaws didn't agree. Finally I had to pay Rs 550 and take a cab to BTM Layout, where they charged me extra for the pet. The next day, to go to Chennai, I had informed the travel agent that I would get my dog along. Initially, he didn't say anything, but later during the pick up, he didn't want to allow the pet. I had to convince him and then he agreed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 All about birds

Indian Music Experience Museum (IME) brings its annual summer camp that promises to be a unique experience with art workshops themed around birds. "Birds & You" summer camp offers an opportunity for children to explore the world of art-themed activity sessions that bring together ecology and music, such as musical storytelling, bird clay-modelling, bird-inspired movement and dance workshop, bird yoga and bird games, bird origami and sketching workshop.
Where: IME performance theatre
When: May 9 – 13
Register: Rs 1,500, https://forms.gle/YYJpZa3yA5s1xvA79

02 Adoption alert

If you're planning to give a furry one a forever home, check out the very first adult dog adoption by Indiranagar Canine Squad with HUFT Magarath Road. There will be five lovely family indie dogs with equally heartwarming stories. Vet Dr Champak Naik will also cover the benefits, necessities and misconceptions about adopting adult dogs in a talk at 1 pm.

Where: 27 Magrath Road, Ashok Nagar
When: May 7, 1.30pm – 5.30 pm
Contact: 8197459111

03 It's play time!

Creative Circus welcomes everyone between the ages of 13 and 17 to participate in this 5-day journey. Instructors Deepthi and Akash will facilitate a process that derives from their combined and individual experiences of working, performing, and training in the theatre and in the field of music.

Where: Bangalore Creative Circus, 12/2, Yeswanthpur Industrial Suburb
When: May 3 – 7, 10am to 1pm
Tickets: Rs 4,750, https://linktr.ee/blrcreativecircus

Faith that connects all

On the occasion of Eid, people offer prayers at a gathering at a ground in Chamarajpet.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

City, on the fast track

Bengaluru to act as maintenance hub for Vande Bharat Express trains that are slated to connect several South Indian cities

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Bengaluru will soon become a hub of semi high-speed trains for south India. Many Vande Bharat Express trains are set to be operational in south Indian cities connecting various parts of the country and the railways have chosen Bengaluru as the maintenance hub for these Vande Bharat trains in southern India.

The trains are being manufactured at Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai. The speciality of Vande Bharat trains is that it can reach a speed of 160 kmph and is supposed to have travel classes better than Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express. According to railways, all the coaches of Vande Bharat will have automatic doors, GPS-based audio-visual passenger information system, on-board hotspot Wi-Fi for entertainment purposes with bio-vacuum toilets.

Aneesh Hegde, Chief Public Relations Officer, South Western Railways, said, "We are planning to upgrade the existing MEMU car shed at Banaswadi to provide maintenance for the proposed Vande Bharat trains. That's the position for now."

In terms of facilities, Vande Bharat trains offer a premium ride. The lighting will be in dual mode: diffused for general illumination and personal for every seat.

Each coach will have a pantry facility. The coaches will also be insulated to keep noise levels lower. The composition of the train may have 16 AC coaches with two executive class coaches and each train can carry 1,128 passengers at one go.

Vande Bharat Express trains spell luxury and save time as well

Unlike Shatabdi, Vande Bharat coaches will have electric equipment below the coaches and seats in the driving coach etc. The trains will have a regenerative braking system with 30 per cent electrical energy saving.

A Press Information Bureau (PIB) data said, "The Vande Bharat Express train has an intelligent braking system which enables better acceleration and deacceleration. These trains will have fully sealed gangways and censored interconnecting doors for a dust-free environment.

"A fire survival cable indoor circuit will also be available on the train. There will also be an improved air conditioning system."

However, the fare of these trains will be much higher than the other ones. The basic fare of AC chair car of Vande Bharat Express will be 1.4 times of the basic fare of AC chair car class of Shatabdi train and for executive class, it will be 1.3 times of the basic fare of Shatabdi trains.

There will be other charges like reservation fee, superfast surcharge, catering charge and Goods and service tax etc. Even the tatkal quota will be five per cent of the total accommodation for the respective classes.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had recently announced the rolling out of 400 Vande Bharat trains in the next three years.

> **"These trains should be a must for Bengaluru - Mumbai routes as well**
> –Sanjeev Dyamanavar, a techie and rail expert

Sanjeev Dyamananavar, a techie and a rail expert said, "The railways should look at introducing these semi high-speed trains from Bengaluru to Hyderabad, Hubballi and Kochi. These trains should be a must for Bengaluru-Mumbai routes as there is high traffic always. The railways can also consider introducing a weekend train to Mangaluru which may be well-received."

According to him, once introduced, these trains can provide a premium journey to commuters with less noise and many of them can take these overnight trains for their travel or work.

However, a senior railway official said that the routes for Vande Bharat were yet to be decided though there was a demand for such trains between Hubballi - Bengaluru.

"The routes are being examined and proposals are being sent to the Ministry. Vande Bharat trains can run only after completing electrification. Electrification of this route is expected to be completed by March 2023," Hegde added.

After woman kills self, family alleges dowry harassment

Man allegedly files for divorce, throws out woman, 7-month-old from house as dowry demands not met

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A 38-year-old senior accountant working with an MNC and his mother have been booked for dowry death by the North division police after the man's wife died by suicide at her parents' house in Nandhini Layout. The accused, Prashanta and his mother, residents of Chikkalasandra, are yet to be arrested. They have been summoned for questioning and to record their statements.

In her complaint to the police, the victim's mother Lalithamma, stated that Prashanta's and Damini's was an arranged marriage. They were married on October 30, 2020 and ever since, the man and his family members have been vocal about their demands in the way of gold jewellery and cash, she said. Lalithamma, a pensioner, said she had to convince her son-in-law and his family that she would do the best she could, but could not meet every demand. She had told the family that she got a pension of Rs 20,000 and had to manage her family's expenses too.

During the engagement and wedding ceremonies, Lalithamma had offered her daughter earrings, and two rings but the man's family allegedly demanded gold chains, bracelet, and necklace. "The couple led a happy life only for two months after their marriage, and subsequently differences started creeping up and it was always Prashant who found fault with his wife and harassed her," Lalithamma and her son told Bangalore Mirror.

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

They are said to have demanded that gold jewellery be given to the baby and the couple. A worried Lalithamma told them to also chip in with expenses for the ceremony, but the man's family is said to have objected to it

The couple had a baby girl around seven months ago and Prashanta and his mother told Damini and Lalithamma that the naming ceremony would be celebrated in a grand manner. They are said to have demanded that gold jewellery be given to the baby and the couple. A worried Lalithamma told them to also chip in with expenses for the ceremony, but the man's family is said to have objected to it.

So the naming ceremony did not go according to the man's family's expectations, she said. Prashanta, in March this year, shot a divorce notice to Damini. "Initially Damini could not believe it, but it later sinked in that her husband was not keen on continuing with their relationship. On April 26, Prashant and his family picked up a quarrel with Damini who felt insulted and humiliated," she said.

As she was kicked out with her baby girl of seven months, she decided to hand the baby over to Prashanta for him to take care of his daughter. But Prashanta and his family took the baby to Damini's house and left the baby with Damini and her mother.

On April 27, around 7 am Damini's baby was crying and she fed the baby. Later, she came to the hall and took her wedding saree with her and locked herself in her room. "When she did not come out after more than half an hour, the family members checked on her to see that she had ended her life using the saree," a police officer said.

Based on the messages between Damini and Prashanta, and the statements from Damini's family members the Nandini Layout police have taken up a case of dowry death - 304-B under the IPC along with the 498-A dowry harassment and have booked Prashant and his mother.

City's shame: Sewer these ties now

Activists record manual scavenging, take matter to the police

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The menace of manual scavenging is not going unnoticed in the city as activists are keeping a tab on such social evils and ensuring that culprits are brought to the book. One such example is an incident at the Celebrity Layout in Doddathoguru near Electronics City on April 30.

The Electronics City police have taken up a case against a supervisor and a few others of the Celebrity Layout who hired three men including a guard to get inside a manhole of a sewer chamber and clear the blockade. "The accused identified as Gangolappa and others have been served notices and they are yet to respond," said a senior police officer from the Electronic City police station.

According to police, Gangolappa who works as a supervisor at the layout had called up a guard, Ashok, and asked him to come with two workers as they had to clear a sewer chamber on 3rd cross. Gangolappa promised Rs 500 rupees per head. Ashok arrived with associates Narasimhappa, and Lakshminarayanappa. Soon after Ashok got into the manhole, two local activists, one of them identified by the police as Manjunath, arrived in an auto-rickshaw.

They stopped at the spot and videographed and photographed the work done by the three men. Manjunath told Ashok they were not supposed to get into the manholes as it must be cleaned by machines. But, unaware of the laws that prohibit employment of manual scavengers, the trio who started their work around 10 am completed it around 12.30 pm.

The trio also got Rs 1,500 as wages from Gangolappa. The activists armed with the video footage rushed to the Electronics City police station and told the cops. The cops came to the spot and questioned the workers and based on their statements and a complaint from Ashok, the cops registered a case under sections of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013. The cops have also taken the video as evidence to charge-sheet the case. "We have issued notices to the supervisor of Celebrity Layout Gangolappa and a few others on the incident and are yet to hear from them," a senior police officer added.

FAKE NEWS BUSTER MIRROR

PFIZER, MODERNA CFOS NOT EXITING OVER VAX SAFETY

THE CLAIM

After both Pfizer and Moderna, pharma companies that have been involved in making covid vaccines, recently announced new chief financial officers (CFOs), there was speculation on social media that it was somehow related to covid-19 vaccine safety. A Twitter user wrote: Bad Things Coming for Those Responsible? - Pfizer and Moderna CFOs Run The CFOs of Pizer and Moderna have both resigned over the past 72 hours.

SO, WHAT'S THE TRUTH?

It is true that the two CFOs had announced their departure, but they have not resigned. Plus they did not announce departure in 72 hours. Pfizer CFO Frank D'Amelio announced his retirement in November 2021 having served as its finance chief since 2007. Moderna CFO David Meline, who is also retiring, will stay on as consultant while the company transitions to a new CFO. Their exits are well-known and have no link to covid vaccine.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's separate the news from the noise, Bengaluru. Tell us about that incredible-sounding story/news/alert that you've received on WhatsApp or social media and Bangalore Mirror researchers and editors will see if it checks out. If it doesn't, we'll call it out

TOPCOMMENTS

If BBMP plans and monitors work, there won't be slush

Our story 'Varthur's roads are a slushy mess' has got a few responses from readers. **Ragavan K writes on Twitter,** if the work was not done properly, these type of things are bound to happen during rains.The civic body BBMP must get the work done by their contractors smoothly and good quality materials should be used -- which also must be monitored by the BBMP. Hope the BBMP handle this work in a good manner. We need the slushy mess to be sorted out. A reader writes, if this is the scene just after pre-monsoon showers, one shudders to think what would happen when the rains begin. The roads of Varthur are in a bad shape and need to be asphalted else the situation can only go downhill from here.

WEBHITS

3 most-read articles on the Mirror site

- Volunteers reclaim lake from litter
- The green breaks through concrete
- Varthur's roads are slushy mess

Don't blow horn near Metro stations

Almost all stations get display boards to curb echoing discomfort to passengers

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Honking is a big menace in Bengaluru. Apart from citizens frequenting the undersides of Metro stations, Metro passengers too are at the receiving end of the issue. With many Metro commuters complaining of the echoing sound of honking inside stations, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has decided to make the areas around the Metro stations no-honking zones. Presently, authorities are installing no-honking boards outside to bar motorists from creating an echoing discomfort to Metro passengers and residents nearby.

A majority of the Metro stations in the city are built over road medians and the vehicles are continuously passing below the stations on a 24x7 basis.

Out of 48 elevated metro stations, no-honking message displayed at 11 already, as ear-splitting 'tunnel boom' inconvenience citizens underneath
BOOM-E-RANG
High decibel honking affects structural integrity of buildings

BM on March 22 had reported that BMRCL put up "no-honk" messages outside 11 Metro stations

No-honking board displayed outside Yeshwanthpur Metro station

Earlier, BMRCL had displayed "No-honking" boards outside 11 Metro stations. Now, almost all Metro stations have got the message displayed outside stations to spread awareness among motorists.

Ramesh S, a regular Metro commuter, said, "We have to spend a while in the Metro station before boarding a train. As the Metro trains are huge, there will be a lot of echoing sound. A number of Metro stations like Goraguntepalya, Yeshwanthpur, Peenya, Peenya Industries or T Dasarahalli are located on top of the busy Tumkur Road via piers. As traffic congestion is quite common on this road, the motorists continuously honk, creating a ripple effect of echoing inside the stations. This is very irritating for the commuters."

BMRCL's Chief Engineer and Chief PRO B L Yashwanth Chavan told Mirror, "We have witnessed incidents of echoing discomfort at Metro stations where vehicles are passing below the station road. This is leading to noise pollution inside the stations. Hence, we have decided to create awareness to motorists by displaying the board outside stations. From our end, we are trying our best to educate people and reduce noise pollution and we request the same from the public as well."

Honking can lead to serious problems

According to experts, exposure to incessant honking that is above the normal decibel levels can lead to serious health problems. Bangalore Mirror had earlier reported as to how many audiology clinics were seeing a surge in patients complaining about hearing disorders as the vehicular density had increased.

Experts also say that honking can also lead to behavioural problems. Many people complain of higher stress levels after driving through the busy city traffic. Experts say that the human body is tuned for survival and whenever an external noise is made, it tries to identify if it is a threat or not. During that time, both heart rate and palpitation increases, this leads to stress.

Noise emanating from honking could have long-lasting physical and psychological impact in a person with children and old people being more vulnerable to the menace. According to Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, the maximum permissible level of sound in commercial areas were 65 decibels and 55 decibels in residential areas. This apart, no one is allowed to honk between 10 pm and 6 am and even reverse-turn sound is also banned by that time. Honking is also said to be the highest in the half a kilometre stretch before a traffic signal.

How Koramangala footpaths became walkable

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A clean-up drive at a footpath on Koramangala Inner Ring Road has made significant progress within one month. Roughly 25 per cent of the 6-km stretch is fixed and the rest is expected to be cleared within a month or so.

For the past one month, the BBMP along with a team from The Ugly Indian has been working towards recovering the 3-km-long footpath on both sides of the road. Due to its abandoned state, the footpath had turned into a black spot, preventing runners and walkers from using it. A lot of debris was also dumped on the stretch and the footpath was broken in multiple spots.

After one month since the clean-up drive started, around 1.5 km of the stretch has been covered. BBMP officials invited runners for a public inspection on the stretch on Sunday. Runners were able to do a 10-km run on the stretch without any difficulty.

A month ago, The Ugly Indian started developing the 3-km-long footpath on Koramangala Inner Ring Road

While the garbage has been removed and the wall has been painted, some amount of debris is yet to be removed.

Chidananda, BBMP Jr Health Inspector from Ward 114, said: "Around 1.5 to 2 km of the stretch has been recovered and garbage removal is completed. Only a small portion of debris removal and drain repairs are pending. Previously, the footpath was completely unwalkable."

For the past one month, we took up it as a challenge to clean the area, he added. "People from other wards were also dumping garbage on this stretch. Now, the area is completely clear of waste dumps. Apart from the stretch of roughly 50 metre where clearing work is going on, the rest of the area is walkable," said Chidananda.

The team plans to complete the clean-up work by the end of May, however there is still ambiguity on whether the black spot across the Ejipura Flyover will be cleared. "We completed the first phase of the clean-up drive and we will be completing the drive in four phases," said a member of The Ugly Indian Team.

For professional runners, even a tiny obstacle on the footpath could easily lead to injuries and the success of the running audit is a testament to the walkability of the footpath.

Appreciating the walkability of the stretch, a frequent runner on the stretch, Apparajita said: "We used to run along the stretch quite often, but had to stop ever since the flyover construction started. For the past 10 years, we have been running along the length of the road. After the clean-up drive, the footpath has become usable for walking and running, and is clear of obstacles."

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Stinky pavement
Banashankari

A pavement at Banashankari 2nd Stage is filled with garbage and it's difficult for pedestrians to use the stretch. Authorities need to clean this up and make it pedestrian-friendly.

Broken path
Marathahalli

A portion of a pavement in Marathahalli is badly damaged. Authorities concerned need to fix it at the earliest.

Where's the sign?
Nayandahalli

A sign board displaying locations in Nayandahalli is broken and has to be replaced with a new one.

Power-packed cargo shipments

As fuel rates surge and traffic increases, companies are opting for electric vehicles to cut transportation costs

RANJEET KATE

Electric vehicles are poised to offer Rs 3-lakh-crore business for stakeholders by 2026

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As the city moves back to a pre-covid world and fuel prices surge, citizens and business establishments are doing everything to cut down on fuel costs. Many companies in the field of cargo shipment are now using electric vehicles. The companies say that as EVs are very economical, they save a lot of money in transportation besides achieving the mission of lesser or no carbon footprint.

Suresh S, who works as a manager with a cargo company, said that their business was to ship cargo from one end of Bengaluru to another. "With traffic bouncing back to pre-Covid levels, many of the vehicles lose fuel while waiting at traffic junctions as well. So, as an economical factor, we decided to switch to EVs. Though EVs are a bit expensive than the conventional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, we will save in the long run by not using fuel."

However, the bigger challenge is that of charging. Renuka Prasad who uses an EV, said, "We need to charge EVs at office or home. However, as these EVs have a limited charge, the challenge is that we cannot take a longer route unlike diesel vehicles. Currently, the EV charging ecosystem is yet to be developed fully and till then, the EV penetration will be below normal."

Many transport companies want the State Government to provide subsidies to buy EVs. This will also go a long way in saving the environment.

According to statistics, Karnataka has the highest number of electric two-wheelers in the country, thereby driving the EV market in this segment. According to the latest statistics, there are 1,051,202 EVs in the country across all the segments. Out of them, Karnataka accounts for 89,869 EVs, standing next only to Delhi (139,924).

Interestingly, Karnataka beats New Delhi in terms of electric two-wheelers. Among 3, 36,924 electric two-wheelers in the country, Delhi's share is 19,084 and Karnataka has 65,171 electric two-wheelers. Even among the four-wheelers, Karnataka (6,668) beats Delhi (3,236). However, Delhi's figures go up for the increased electric three-wheelers (1, 15,753) as against Karnataka's 16,489 three-wheelers.

> **Though EVs are more expensive than ICE vehicles, we will save in the long run by not using fuel**
>
> – Suresh S, a manager

According to a CRISIL analysis, EVs are poised to offer an almost Rs 3-lakh crore business for various stakeholders in India till fiscal 2026, said. The segment is expected to be driven by shared mobility, battery swapping and shift from ICE vehicles besides government support, it said.

The opportunity includes potential revenue of about Rs 1.5-lakh crore across vehicle segments for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and around Rs 90,000 crore in the form of disbursements for vehicle financiers, with shared mobility and insurance accounting for the balance, as per the analysis.

"Considering the improving cost parity and the government's focus on electrification of vehicles, we should not be surprised if EV penetration reaches 15 per cent in two-wheeler, 25-30 per cent in three-wheeler, and 5 per cent in cars and buses by fiscal 2026 in terms of vehicle sales," CRISIL officials said.

(with inputs from agencies)

Delivery boys in a soup for assaulting driver

Bellie.Thomas
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

The Electronics City police have arrested two delivery personnel working with a pizza brand in the city for assaulting a school bus driver. The duo had picked up a quarrel with him over an alleged incident of road rage on Saturday.

The arrested have been identified as Babu and Chetan, both of them residents of Electronics City Phase 1.

According to the police, the incident happened on Cyber Park Road in Electronics City Phase 1, when Gopal Krishna (39), working as a school bus driver for a private school, was returning home on his bike when he encountered two delivery personnel on a bike, riding in a rash manner.

> **Duo allegedly abuse bus driver for questioning them about rash riding**

"I repeatedly tried to avoid them, but they were in my way and would not let me go further," Krishna told this newspaper.

He then stopped near them and questioned as to why they were riding the bike in a rash and dangerous way for which the duo started to abuse Krishna.

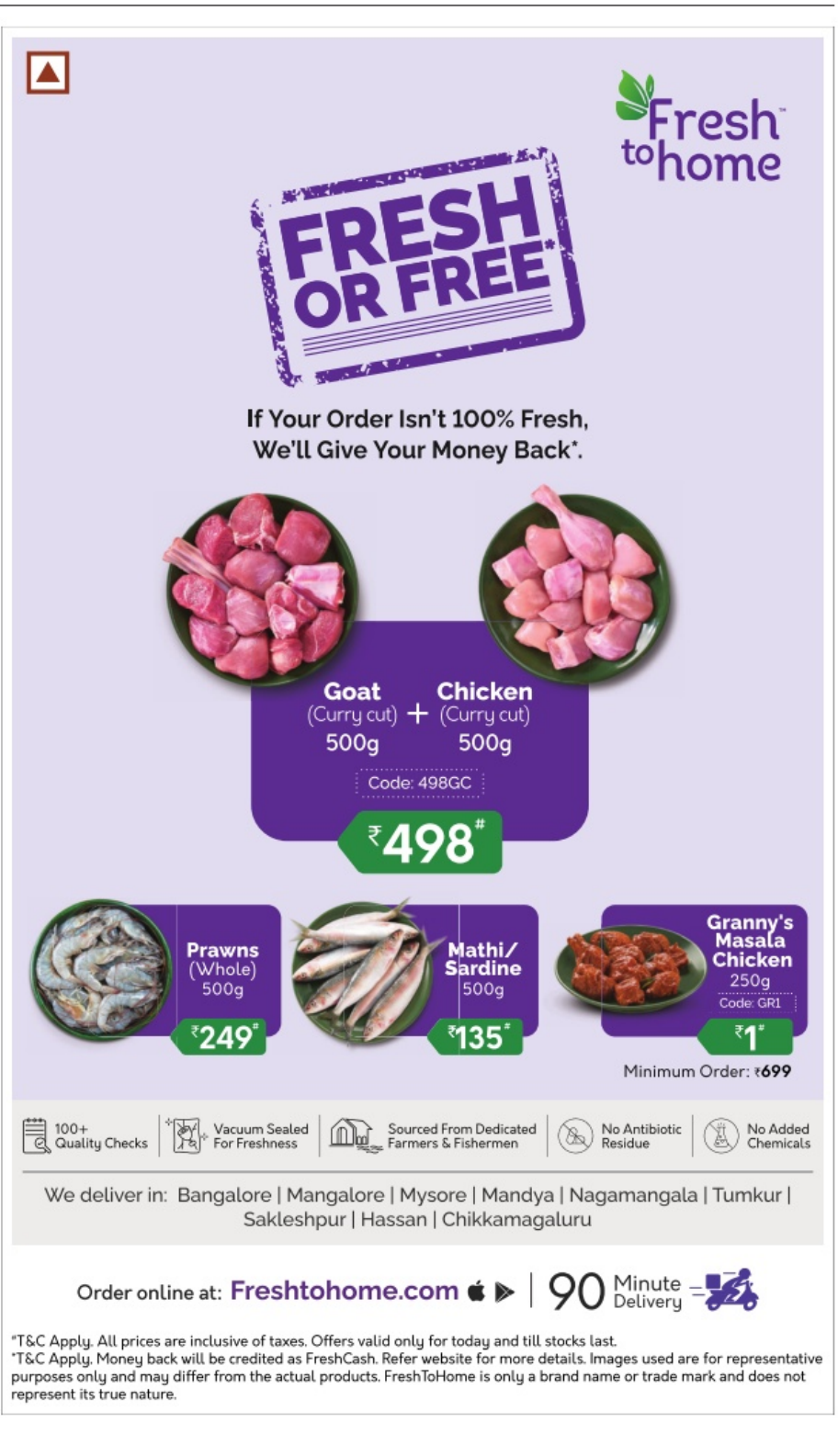
When he asked for their names, they said that their names were Babu and Chetan and as locals, they would teach him a lesson. The duo also threatened him that they would set his house on fire.

Krishna also retaliated with abuses and left with his bike when the bike riders followed him. The two then assaulted Krishna using their hands and threatened him with dire consequences if he messed with them.

"The two were on a pizza delivery bike despite having the huge box attached," Krishna said.

He then approached the Electronics City police and filed a complaint based on which, the two accused were booked for criminal assault, wrongful restraint, intentional insult, and criminal intimidation.

Further investigations are underway.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Shah visit: Leaders deny talk about change at top

KAUSHIK JN

Union Minister Amit Shah pays homage to Basavanna on Basava Jayanthi in the presence of CM Basavaraj Bommai

Denials poured in on change in the leadership in Karnataka, amid buzz over such a move by the BJP high command ahead of the Assembly polls next year, as Union Minister Amit Shah was on a day-long visit to take part in various events in the city on Tuesday.

This even as some party leaders expressed hopes about cabinet expansion or rejig soon, amid mounting pressure and simmering discontent within the ruling party over the delay. It was widely expected that, during this visit, a month after he set a target of 150 seats for the Karnataka BJP for the 2023 Assembly polls, Shah was expected to assess the BJP's preparations for the polls and may give a strong message to party's leadership and office-bearers.

However, according to party sources his interaction was limited to select BJP leaders over lunch at Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's official residence. With his visit coinciding with the birth anniversary of 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara, Shah began his day by paying floral tributes to the bust and statue of the Lingayat saint.

Sources said Amit Shah limited interaction to select leaders over lunch

Amid buzz over possible change in the leadership, several top BJP leaders including BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, party's state unit President Nalin Kumar Kateel, ruled out Bommai's exit. **PTI**

Promised wetland

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

urbanisation on waterbodies. Aerial analysis was conducted to assess the impact owing to eutrophication and encroachment.

Eutrophication is overwhelming plant or algal growth due to accumulation of excess nutrients in a waterbody.

"In the last 20 years, about 450 acres of lake area have been encroached, with another one thousand acres getting eutrophicated. In total, hundreds of acres in the purview of the 42 lakes surveyed have depreciated, transforming many waterbodies into dry bunds. Our research also revealed that about 90% of the lakes in the ambit of the study were encroached by an average of 7.39%," said Dr Rajesh Gopinath, lead author of the study and professor at BMS Institute of Technology and Management.

As per the study, four lakes, including Dasarahalli and Puttenahalli lakes, have experienced a loss in area to the range of 21-30%. Ten waterbodies including Hebbal, Vibhuthipura and Nagawara lakes have witnessed a reduction in the range of 11-20%. The remaining waterbodies witnessed a dip in area by 1-10% — these include Lalbagh Lake (8%) and Kengeri Lake (9%) on the higher side, and Munnekolala Lake, Arekere Lake and Hulimavu Lake on the lower side with 1-2%.

The assessment further revealed that more than 40% of the lakes were impacted by eutrophication, a clear indication of untreated sewage entering the waterbodies. Moreover, about 6% of lakes were being illegally used as dumping grounds for construction debris and waste disposal.

However, the rate of eutrophication was highly variable among all the lakes. It was the highest in Varthur and Bellandur lakes and the least in Dasarahalli Lake.

"The variable rate of eutrophication can be due to a synergy of anthropogenic influences such as failure to incept stringent policies, lack of decentralised STPs, etc. For instance, Hulimavu and Vibhuthipura lakes were so severely impacted that they had transformed into dry grounds owing to non-replenishment by subsurface flow due to rampant civil construction work around them," said Dr Gopinath.

Experts said to revive these waterbodies, the focus must be primarily on preventive measures and not just corrective measures. The purpose would fail if each lake is looked upon as an independent entity, they said, adding that remedial measures must include implementable policies alongside real-time monitoring for point and non-point sources of pollution.

"We must look at each waterbody as an integral component of a system that is interconnected to each other. While there is a lack of continuous monitoring, unsupervised maintenance is another major cause of the downhill trend. While some specific lakes continue to hog the limelight, most have often been effortlessly ignored. No waterbody can be irrelevant if we look at the critical ecosystem services they offer to several other lifeforms," added Dr Gopinath.

Taxi for pets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

During the whole drive, the driver was very angry and irritated," said Mishra.

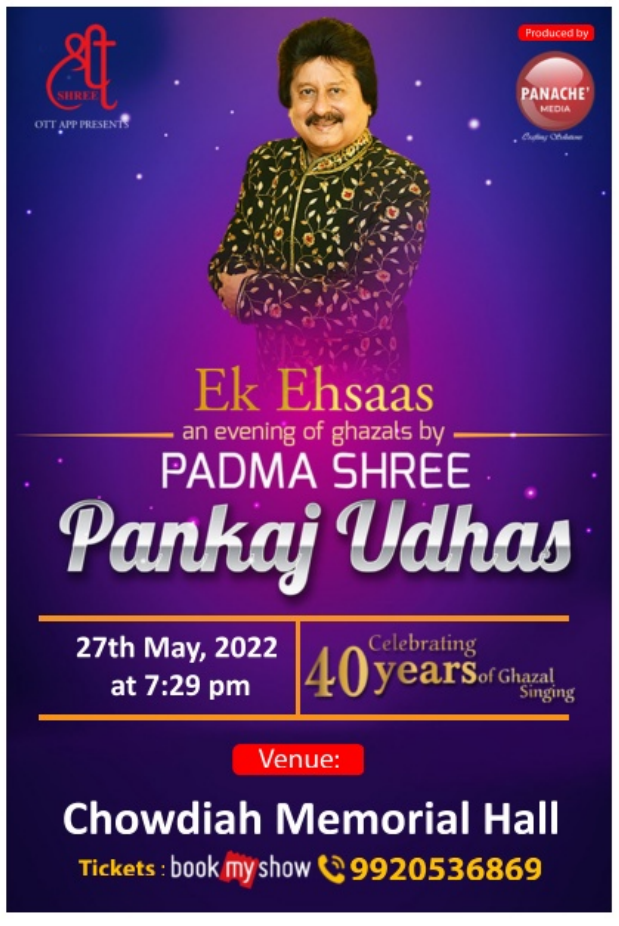
Mishra also said there have been instances where it led to the brink of assault between other drivers and him, just for taking his pet along.

Now, Mishra owns a car. So he decided to start the initiative himself; to pick and drop pets. He has even hired a driver for the facility, in case he gets busy with work. "It's been a month since I started the service. After I had put up a post on social media, I have been receiving bookings. I plan my schedule accordingly and manage work alongside the pick up and drop service for pets. For one km distance, I charge Rs 15, as the petrol prices have spiked. So far, I have done 13 pickups and drops. On the days I'm busy, my driver takes over," he said.

Most of the bookings Mishra gets are for inter-district or interstate commute. "Recently I got a booking for a couple who had to go to Vellore. They reached out to many travel agencies and were denied the opportunity to take their pet along. They got to know about my service and reached out to me thereafter. I drove them with their German Shepherd. Other times, I have got calls to pick up pets from railway stations and drop them off at homes. Some also call to take their pets to hospitals," Mishra said.

Many pet parents were happy with the initiative. "It is a wonderful initiative as many cabs and autos deny taking pets. It gets difficult for those who don't have a vehicle. There have been times where I have tried booking several times and all cancelled saying they can't take the pet; I then had to reach out to my friends to take my dog to the clinic," said a resident of Benson Town.

Mishra plans to set up an app soon for people to reach out to him easily and to facilitate multiple bookings.



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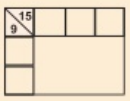
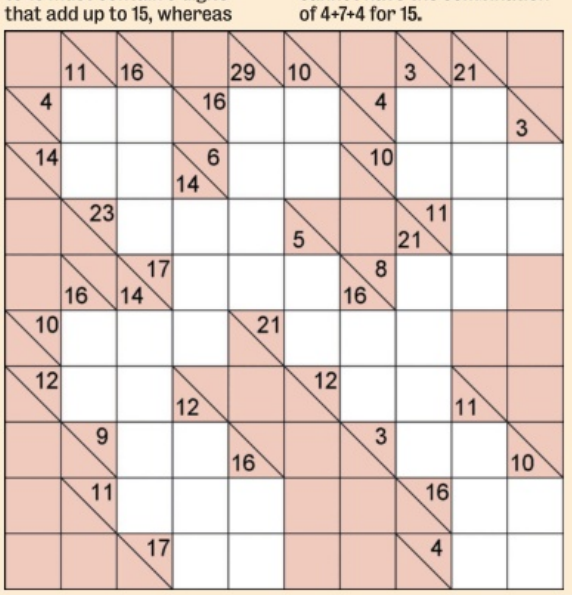
farnazfever

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick

ACROSS

7 Tray (6)
8 Haitian religion (6)
9 ___ on : incites (4)
10 Obsession (4,4)
11 Imposing, majestic (7)
13 Surpass (5)
15 Large flat fish (5)
17 Studies again (2-5)
20 He prefers to be by himself (4,4)
21 Wine barrel (4)
22 Sportsmen on snow slopes (6)
23 Principal sum (6)

DOWN

1 Seized or snatched (6)
2 Ancient greetings (4)
3 Tourist destination home to the Ranganatha Swamy Temple (1,1,5)
4 The idiot box (2,3)
5 Hairstyle (8)
6 Cajoled or beguiled (6)
12 Ragged (8)
14 Ideal, utopian or flawless (7)
16 Criticizes (6)
18 Capital of Assam (6)
19 Dictatorial and domineering (5)
21 Short (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS G

QXN IOPN YL AYSH FSUONCTN UYNIC'Q ZFQQNH. MXFQ'I OZJYHQFCQ OI QXFQ AYSH FSUONCTN OI ROIQNCOCK.

Linemaro

I love the way you multitask everything

Mindchow

Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. They still remember it

Joke of the day

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road? Einstein: Did the chicken really cross the road or did the road move beneath the chicken?

Loop

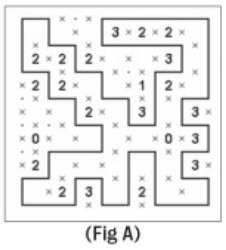
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

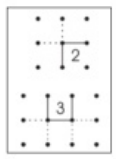
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

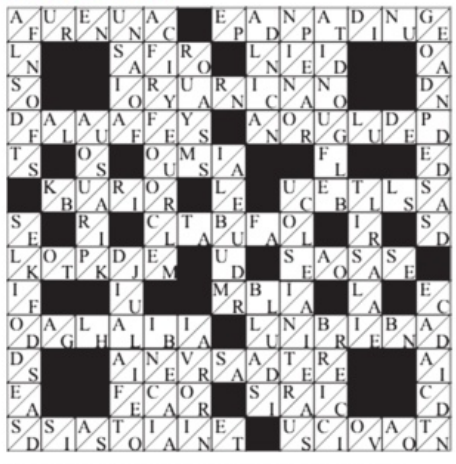


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

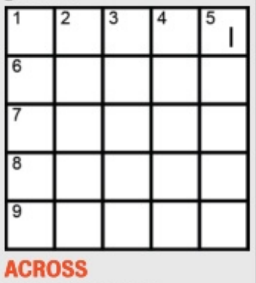
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

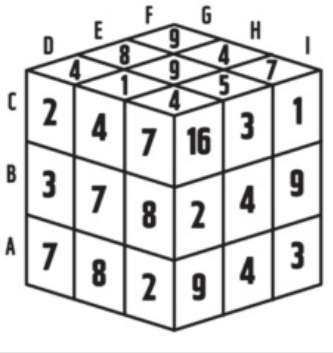
1 Sails; 6 Hoe do; 7 Lib or; 8 Notae; 9 Drake

DOWN

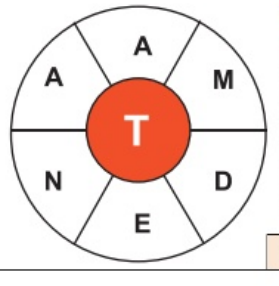
1 Labor; 2 A taro; 3 Hooks; 4 Seen I; 5 Le did

Mensapuzzle

Each letter points to a row of SIX numbers. Which is the odd one out?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		8					3	
9	7				2		8	
		3			4	6		1
	5	4	1		6			
			2		9	4	5	
7		2	9			8		
	8		4				7	5
	6					1		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7

2 5 7 7

Medium = 9

2 7 9 9

Hard = 43

2 5 8 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

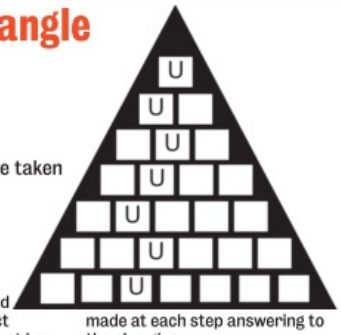
Differences: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Shirt is different. 3. Tail is moved. 4. Window is missing. 5. Bush is larger. 6. Dog's leg is moved.

Riddler

Below are incomplete words. Replace the letters in each bracket so that you can complete the word on the left and begin the word on the right.
Can (___) lar Bru (___) ly L (___) litude

Alpha triangle

1 A type of turn
2 _____ and them
3 Litigate
4 Trick
5 Remedies
6 Direction or route taken
7 Obtained from



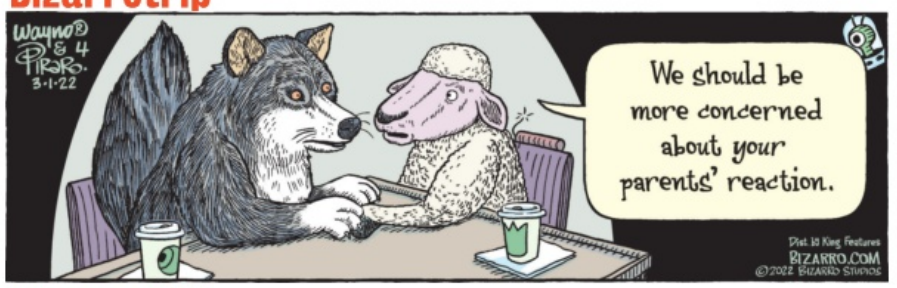
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

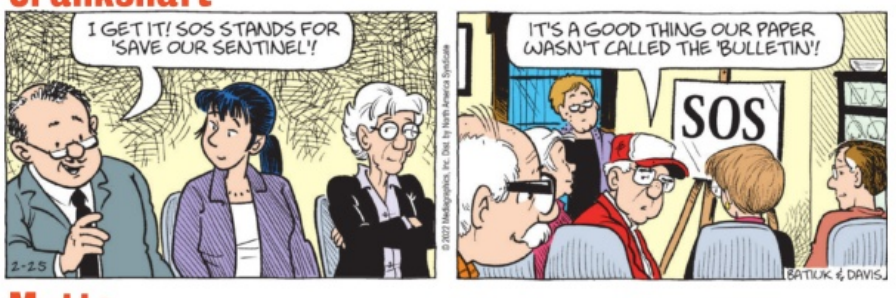
Bizarrotrip



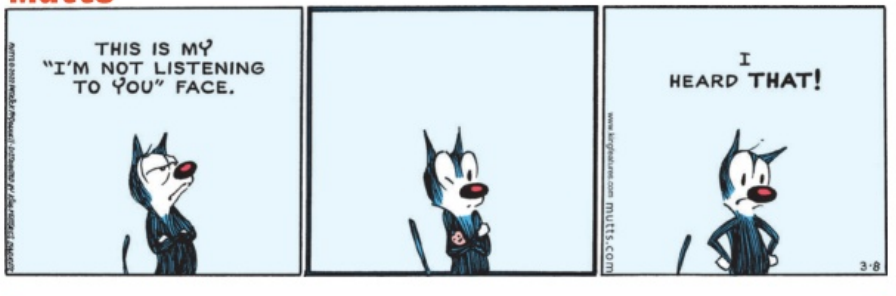
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You will plan to invest more capital into family business. This may increase your family business in the near future. You may expect to get some rewards on behalf of your social services. You may expect to hear some good news in your family, which may create joyful environment in the family. You may also enjoy some delicious food.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel happy. Your health is also good, which may give you inner strength and self confidence. Your subconscious mind may not allow to manipulate the messy task. Your social prestige may increase. With the help of your good karma, your luck may help you to start some innovative task.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be unhappy and disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise you may face some losses due to your harsh words while talking to someone. You are advised to avoid long trips and avoid rash driving. You should keep yourself away from bay areas or oceans.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may find mental peace. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with the spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may expect to get ample of opportunities at work; you may notice some progress in your life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be able to implement your plans with the help of your strong network at work. You may get a big order with the help of your hard work. There may be good understanding between you and your spouse, which may increase harmony in your domestic life. Your boss may appreciate your hard work.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon . The past's messy situation is under control. You may initiate your postponed works. With blessings, you may get reward for your hard work. There are some gains in your business, which may boost your financial health. You may expect some unexpected opportunity, which may increase your business or work. You may also plan an overseas travel.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may not feel well; you might have health issues. This may affect your profession and domestic life. You may be upset due to spouse health issues. Your patience may be tested many times. You are advised not to make investments in new business projects, otherwise you may face losses. Students are advised to avoid fantasy and should work hard in their studies.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may be able to make quick deci- sions in the professional front. You may expect to get new opportunities in terms of business, which may boost your confidence level. You are likely to start some new innovations with the help of your business partner, which may increase your business in the near future.

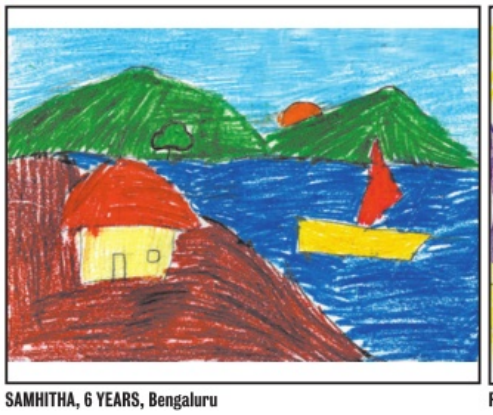
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon. You may feel healthy; chronic health issues may get cured now. Kids' health may improve now. The money, which was stuck somewhere, may get recovered now. You may also repay your debt.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. This may give you peace of mind. You may become decisive and may grab the opportunity without a second thought. Past karma may help you to sustain in any situation and show you the right path. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments. Job aspirants may get a suitable job with the help of friends.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be dull. Detachment from responsibilities may make you upset. You may not be able to fulfil your commitments, which may affect your prestige. You may be a victim of arrogance. It may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel lack of confidence, which may stop you to do something creative at work.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be enthusiastic. Your focus towards your goals may be very good. You may easily achieve your target. You are likely to go for short work-related trips, which may give you benefits in the near future. Your subordinate staff may help you to complete an important project. Disputes with siblings may arise.

KIDZONE



SAMHITHA, 6 YEARS, Bengaluru

Ramya V, 11 Years, Goodwills Girls Middle School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
Cancel - cellar, Brutal - tally, Lamp - amplitude

QUOTE UNCODE
The size of your audience doesn't matter. What's important is that your audience is listening.

SOLVE IN 1M
(16÷4×8÷2)÷1/4=
(4×8÷2)÷1/4=
(32÷2)÷1/4=
16×4/1=64/1=64

FAST FIVE

L	A	S	S	I
O	O	H	E	D
B	R	O	I	L
A	T	O	N	E
R	A	K	E	D

STRIKE OUT

D	I	S	T	A	N	T	■	S	C	O	O	T	■	■
E	■	E	C	O	■	S	R	I	■	■	■	C	■	■
D	■	I	N	V	A	D	E	R	■	■	■	I	■	■
D	A	H	L	I	A	■	U	N	B	E	N	D	■	■
I	■	U	■	M	B	A	■	L	■	E	■	■	■	■
K	O	P	J	E	■	U	■	E	A	S	E	■	■	■
S	■	R	■	C	A	B	A	L	■	I	■	S	■	■
B	U	R	R	■	L	■	C	E	L	L	S	■	■	■
T	■	S	■	O	S	A	■	L	■	■	E	■	■	■
F	L	U	F	F	Y	■	A	R	G	U	E	D	■	■
L	■	I	R	A	N	I	A	N	■	■	O	■	■	■
O	■	I	R	A	N	I	A	N	■	■	D	■	■	■
A	R	E	N	A	■	P	A	N	T	I	N	G	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
D. D adds up to 36.
The others add up to 33.

BULL'S EYE
ante, anted, data, date, dent, MANDATE, mate, mated, meant, meat, neat, tame, tamed, tandem, team, tend

SUDOKU

3	6	5	8	2	7	1	4	9
1	8	9	4	6	3	2	7	5
7	4	2	9	5	1	8	6	3
6	3	1	2	7	9	4	5	8
2	9	7	5	4	8	3	1	6
8	5	4	1	3	6	9	2	7
5	2	3	7	8	4	6	9	1
9	7	6	3	1	2	5	8	4
4	1	8	6	9	5	7	3	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Us, Sue, Ruse, Cures, Course, Sourced.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 − 7 + 7 + 2 = 7
Medium
9 + 9 − 7 − 2 = 9
Hard
5 + 2 × 5 + 8 = 43

LOOP

KAKURO

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Musk and mum
Elon Musk walked the Met Gala carpet with his mother, model Maye Musk, 74, wearing a black tuxedo with coattails and a bow tie. Maye kept her look elegant with an ankle-length burgundy velvet dress

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GALA LAND

Stars sparkle at Met Gala in New York

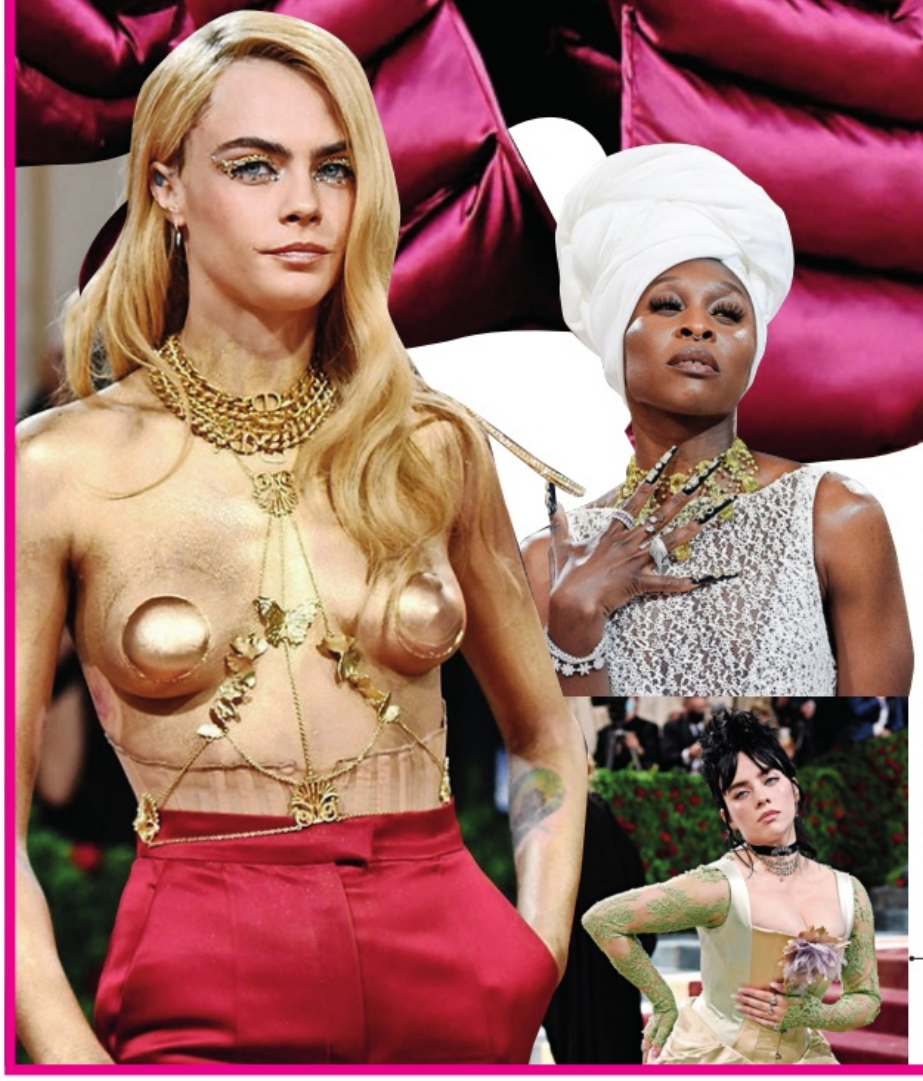
A-listers dressed to the theme of "gilded glamour" sparkled on the red carpet as the annual Met Gala extravaganza known as "the party of the year" returned to its pre-pandemic schedule in New York Monday. Here are some top looks:

Co-host Blake Lively wowed in a beaded Versace gown with an oversized satin bow that unfurled to reveal a light-blue train while singer Billie Eilish wore an ornate Gucci bodice with green lace sleeves. Actress Lively, whose husband actor Ryan Reynolds wore a brown velvet tuxedo, described her dress as an "homage" to New York City architecture, including the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building and Grand Central station.

Singer Alicia Keys also paid tribute to Big Apple buildings, with a black Ralph Lauren cape that portrayed the city's skyline in silver beading.

Some 400 famous names from the worlds of music, film, fashion and sports strutted their stuff at the over-the-top costume parade on the Metropolitan Museum of Art's carpeted steps. Grammy-winning singer Lizzo made a dramatic entrance in an intricate hand-embroidered gold-and-black coat over a black Thom Browne gown, stopping to play her flute on the steps. Rapper Cardi B shone in a glittering gold chain gown by Versace with matching gloves while singer Olivia Rodrigo also opted for Versace, sparkling in a lavender mesh dress. Actress and model Cara Delevingne took the Met's "gilded" theme literally, shedding the jacket of her red Dior suit on the steps to reveal she was wearing just gold body paint underneath. Actress Michelle Yeoh sported a flowing green Prabal Gurung gown. Actress Julianne Moore and reality TV star Kris Jenner honored Jackie Kennedy while Glenn Close shone in Valentino Pink. A platinum blonde Kim Kardashian shone in the stunning skintight gown Marilyn Monroe wore in 1962 to sing "Happy Birthday, Mr President" to John F. Kennedy. Last year, the gala brought home more than $16.4 million for the Met's Costume Institute.

—AP



(Best looks: Clockwise from left — Gigi Hadid, Kim Kardashian, Natasha Poonawala, Megan Thee Stallion, Billie Eilish, Cara Delevingne)